



Andrew Kerr Shay

March 14, 1955- March 12, 1985 (29)

His real name was Thomas Andrew Kerr Shay. The “Thomas” part of his name was added some time after his birth to satisfy his grandmother who wanted his grandfather to be memorialized. No one ever called him Thomas, sometimes he was known as Andrew or Andy but everyone called him Kerry after his middle name.

Kerry grew up in the Swarthmore school system, starting in kindergarten. In the fall of 1970 he transferred to Westtown boarding school in West Chester. Although he was no longer enrolled in the Swarthmore/ Rutledge school system he remained close to his friends there.

After Westtown he began his freshman year at Antioch. About this time he came out - in an era that was not friendly to gay people. Antioch constrained him and he left to pursue his dreams as an actor in New York City. He had a series of jobs in the food industry, searching for his lucky break. Tragically, the AIDS crisis roared through the city and Kerry was one of the early casualties. He died just prior to his 30th birthday. His friends and family still mourn his early passing.

Jonathan Shay